

Testimony SB 2  
Montana State Library Budget

Dear Chairman and members of the committee:

For the record, my name is Michelle Logan and I am a senior at Carroll College and I wish to speak on support of the Montana State Library's budget request.

I am currently working on my honors thesis a comparative analysis of the anti-nuclear energy movements in France and the United States and the effect of the political structure of the respective nations on the effectiveness of said movements. Without the availability of Carroll College and other libraries I would not have been able to identify the materials I need and to have accomplished the research that I have completed and am currently undergoing.

The availability of the internet has led many people to believe that anything can be found on Google or other sites. This is not true. While there is a great amount of information on the web, the information there is not always true or accurate and it does not have the in-depth treatment that I need for this research.

Libraries are very important in our society. When I have trouble identifying material that I might need, I can always go to the reference librarian for assistance. At my library there is usually a reference librarian available to assist me which I have found very important because using the internet responses to questions can take weeks to arrive. The actual help of the librarians in my library and others in Helena has allowed me find reference books, books, journals, databases and government documents that will assist my research. Librarians have also aided me in my use of the internet and instructing me on just HOW to find the information that I want and that, even though I know it must be out there, is sometimes difficult to find.

The Corette Library is one of the libraries that participates in the database project sponsored by the Montana State Library and the college currently receives the InfoTrac databases for a reduced amount of money. For those who may be unfamiliar with it, InfoTrac has 20 different databases, and I use the Expanded Academic ASAP for my research. Through Infotrac I can search for articles on my subject and it allows me to ensure that I am viewing scholarly or peer reviewed literature which is essential to ensuring the integrity of my own research and writing. Through both the use of Infotrac and other programs offered by Corette Library such as Interlibrary Loans (ILLs) I can request and receive the journals and books I need usually within two weeks. Infotrac and the state's assistance in funding it have assisted students and faculty in their research and work along with allowing the Library to use funds that might not otherwise be available to gain more resources for our community.

Along with conducting research I am also a student worker at the Corette Library. I know from speaking with the director, Lois Fitzpatrick, that if the database request for the state library is approved, that she would use the money that is currently being used to

purchase InfoTrac, to purchase additional books, journals or databases. These books and journals would be shared with other libraries throughout Montana and the nation through interlibrary loans. While working at the library I have also seen the many members of the Helena and Montana community who can also use and benefit from our resources and would also be able to use the new database, ~~and~~ Any other new resources would also be available for use to those who come to the Corette Library or request information on ILL. With the ILL reimbursement that the Corette Library receives, the money is used to purchase additional resources for the library and thus for Montana citizens.

I urge you to accept the Governor's budget for the Montana State Library.

Thank you

Michelle Logan  
1205 Idaho Ave  
Helena MT 59601

971-275-5623